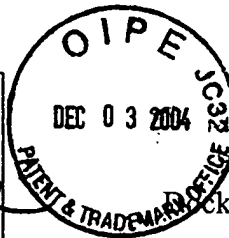


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(Maria Laccotripe Zacharakis, Ph.D., J.D.)



Packet No.: PPI-012CNRCE
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Howard Benjamin *et al.*

Group Art Unit: 1639

Examiner: Ponnaluri, Padmashri

Application No.: 09/772116

Filed: January 26, 2001

For: METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING
COMPOUNDS THAT BIND TO A TARGET

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 30, 2003 (Paper No. 12222003) and the Advisory Action dated July 13, 2004 (Paper No. 070804). A Request for Continued Examination also is being filed concurrently herewith. Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this communication.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this communication.